

Railways, Ministry of Food and FCI for the transportation of foodgrains to various States.

Argentinian Wheat

1520. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalised and instructed the State Trading Corporation of India to look into the possibility of importing the Argentinian wheat as it is cheaper than the Australian and Canadian wheat which have already been contracted in excess of one million tonnes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Argentinian wheat has not been booked so far since there was an opinion that it would be suited only for the bread making and not suitable for making the chappatis; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) The State Trading Corporation of India has finalised contracts for import of 1 lakh tonnes of wheat from Argentina @ US \$ 173 per metric tonne (C&F) JNPT/Bombay Port.

[Translation]

Drip Irrigation

1521. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are encouraging the expansion of drip/sprinkler irrigation system and providing ninety percent rebate for the purpose;

(b) if so, the names of areas where this system is being implemented alongwith the total area under the system, State-wise;

(c) the total amount of subsidy provided by the Government during the current year for the purpose, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government are aware of the fact that only big farmers of limited area are getting benefit of this scheme and most of the farmers are utilizing the provision of rebate only for purchasing the pipes and the remaining components remain unpurchased; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the objectives of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Ninety

percent subsidy is being provided to SC/ST, Small/marginal and women farmers and seventy percent subsidy is provided to the other farmers.

(b) The State-wise area covered under drip irrigation system and number of sprinkler systems installed are given in Statements I and II.

(c) The State-wise allocation of funds for drip and sprinkler irrigation systems for the year 1996-97 are given in Statements III and IV.

(d) As per available information from the states, majority of the farmers covered under the scheme belong to SC/ST, Small/marginal and women farmers. Subsidy is released only if the entire drip system is installed, and duly verified by state officials.

(e) The objectives of scheme are achieved through regular monitoring, providing for drip demonstration, organising training programmes for state officials and farmers and conducting adoptive research.

Statement-I

Area Covered (in ha.) under Drip Irrigation during 1992-96

Sl. No.	State	Total (1992-96) Achievement
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7245.00
2.	Assam	0.00
3.	Bihar	0.00
4.	Goa	204.72
5.	Gujarat	3670.00
6.	Haryana	1123.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	17.39
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	31.00
9.	Karnataka	14719.00
10.	Kerala	3469.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1447.00
12.	Maharashtra	30203.00
13.	Manipur	90.00
14.	Meghalaya	0.00
15.	Mizoram	0.00
16.	Nagaland*	175.00